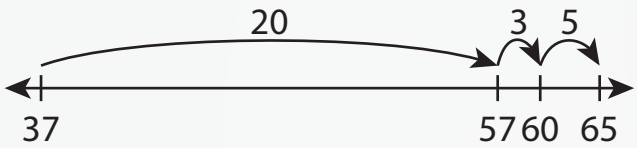
Dear Family,

This week your child is learning strategies for subtracting two-digit numbers.

Consider the following problem: Rex has 65 dollars. He spends 37 dollars. How much money does he have left?

One strategy is called "adding up."
The subtraction sentence 65 − 37 = ? is the same as the addition sentence 37 + ? = 65. How much do you have to add to 37 to get to 65? Here's one way to think about it.

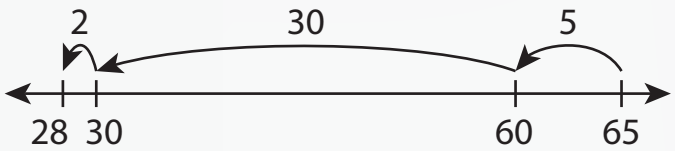
37 + **20** = 57
57 + **3** = 60
60 + **5** = 65
20 + 3 + 5 = 28



So, 37 + 28 = 65, and 65 − 37 = 28.

Another strategy is called "subtracting to make a ten."
65 has 5 ones, so you can just subtract 5 first. Then subtract the tens. Then subtract the rest of the ones.

65 − 5 = 60
60 − 30 = 30
30 − 2 = 28
65 − 37 = 28



Whichever method you choose to use, you will get the same answer: Rex has 28 dollars left.

Invite your child to share what he or she knows about subtracting by doing the following activity together.

NEXT

Subtracting Activity

Make up a subtraction word problem using two-digit numbers you encounter in your everyday life. Use ideas like these:

- Our dog weighs 27 pounds. The cat weighs 12 pounds. How much more does the dog weigh?
- Your brother has saved 21 dollars. How much more does he need so he can buy that 49-dollar video game he's been wanting?
- It is 65 miles from home to Grandma's house, and 78 miles from home to the amusement park. How much farther is it to the park than to Grandma's house?
- The chapter book we are reading has 84 pages. We have read 55 pages. How many more pages do we have to read?

Have your child write and solve a number sentence and then draw a picture to illustrate the word problem.